

Barrington's Jennys Lane Gets Listing on National Register

Barrington, R.I. March 28, 2008 -- The Barrington Preservation Society announces that the Jennys Lane area of Barrington has been placed in the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service on March 6, 2008. A letter from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission on March 18, 2008 announced the honor. The Jennys Lane National Register District is Barrington's second neighborhood listing, with the Alfred Drown National Register District achieving this status in 2005. Other town listings include Barrington's Town Hall and Government Complex and the Frederick Peck Estate known as Belton Court, formerly a part of Zion College.

The Jennys Lane National Register District begins at the intersection of Rumstick Road and Jennys Lane, following Jennys Lane east toward the Barrington River until its intersection with Mathewson Road. The District contains 30 private residences within an approximate 25-acre area. With the exception of five residences that are considered non-conforming because of young age or extensive alteration, properties on both sides of Jennys Lane are included, as well as one property on Rumstick Road, four properties that front Mathewson Road, and a boat house, located on the river. The area presents a unified character, with residences dating primarily from the 1850s through the 1920s. Architectural styles include Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles, as well as more vernacular forms. The area will soon be marked with signage, identifying it as a National Register District.

The Barrington Preservation Society spent several years canvassing the neighborhood, soliciting support, and compiling information needed for a listing nomination, according to Bernard Scola, Barrington Preservation Society treasurer and owner of a property in the District. Homeowners donated the funds necessary to hire a consultant to complete the research and lengthy nomination application, which was sent to the Rhode Island Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission for its recommendation in November, 2007.

The National Register is the Federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation and assists in preserving the nation's heritage. In Rhode Island, properties listed on the National Register are also listed on the State Register. Owners of State Register properties may be eligible to apply for low-interest loans. Owner occupants of State Register properties may also be eligible for State income tax benefits for exterior rehabilitation.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT JENNYS LANE NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

Are there any restrictions on homes in a National Register District?

There are no restrictions. Owners of private property listed on the National Register are free to maintain, manage, alter, or dispose of their property as they choose. Listing in the National Register is an honor, but it does not guarantee the property will never be damaged or demolished. Only local zoning ordinances can offer that protection.

Can all houses in a National Register District qualify for tax credits?

Only homes that contribute to the historic character of the district can qualify for tax credits or loans. Homes that are less than fifty years old generally do not qualify.

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What do the tax credits mean and where do they come from?

Owners of historic houses within a National Register District who live in their properties are eligible to apply for Rhode Island income tax credits and loans. The credit equals 20% of the cost of approved *exterior* restoration work. For every \$2000 you spend, you get \$400 back. The maximum credit per year is \$2000 and unused credits can be rolled over to future years, as long as you live in the house and continue to maintain its historic features. Applications are available from the RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC). No tax credits are given for interior work, construction, landscaping, outbuildings, or replacement windows.

Are there other places in Barrington that could qualify as National Register Districts?

The RIHPHC has identified Mathewson Road, Nayatt Point and Old Barrington Village as meeting the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places.

BARRINGTON LISTINGS ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Barrington Civic Center Historic District

Includes Town Hall, Library etc.

***Alfred Drown National Register District*(listed 2005)**

Individual Properties

St. Matthews Church (listed on August 22, 1991)

Nayatt Pt. Lighthouse (Listed on February 25, 1988)

Frederick Peck Estate/Zion Bible Institute (Listed on June 30, 1976)

Collins/Aikman Mill (Obannon Mill) Listed July 23, 1996

Information provided by the Barrington Preservation Society